

have been attacked and killed by other school-age children. The last thing our city needs is more guns on our streets and more children fearing for their safety.

Recently, the United States Supreme Court agreed to review *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, a case that challenges whether Chicago's local handgun ban is legal. In a time of national concern over senseless and deadly attacks, it is a concern.

Since 1983, it has been illegal to purchase or own a handgun within Chicago city limits. Over the course of that 26 years, Chicago has seen the number of registered handguns drop. Guns have become scarcer, saving lives and creating safer neighborhoods in the process.

As we work to make our cities and communities safer, there are many additional things we could and should fight for. I stand ready to work with the administration to reinstate the assault weapons ban and ready to work with this body to close the gun show loophole.

But in the absence of Federal action, it is critical that we preserve the rights of the people to protect their children and their families at the local level.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to remember the victims of this terrible and often hidden crime and also a time to renew our commitment to eliminating it.

I recently had the privilege of participating in the dedication ceremony for a new Peace Garden at Cornerstone Shelter in my district. The garden honors both the victim of the crime as well as those people committed to restoring hope for those who have experienced domestic violence. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has reported that 70,000 primary victims have received services from battered women's shelters and domestic abuse agencies in 2008 alone.

Thankfully, we have organizations like Cornerstone who provide needed assistance and resources to victims while working to end domestic violence as a whole. When we bring the light of truth to an issue like domestic abuse, its power to destroy decreases.

It's important that we remember the victims of domestic violence and let them know they are not alone as we fight to make the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN JAY JOHNSON

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, like everyone else in northeast Wisconsin, I am shocked and saddened by the passing of my friend, former Congressman Jay Johnson. Jay represented the Eighth District of Wisconsin in this body from January of 1997 to January 1999.

Jay was a friend of mine. He was a gentle person, and everyone in northeast Wisconsin was considered his friend as well. He served the best interests of all of our families and will be greatly missed.

For many years, Jay's trusted voice and kind countenance came into all of our homes as a news anchor on WFRV-TV and WLUK-TV in Green Bay. His colleagues in this room here all recall how kind he was. His colleagues in the newsroom in Green Bay recalled his kind heart, his unending patience, and his grand sense of humor. They will remember him as a gentleman in every sense of the world.

It's clear from his life spent in front of the camera and here in public service that he truly loved people.

In 2000, President Clinton appointed Jay to be director of the United States Mint; and more recently, he ran Jay Johnson Coins and Consulting.

During my service here, Jay had been a mentor, an adviser, and a close friend. On behalf of the people of the Eighth District of Wisconsin, I want to thank Jay for his service and extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, JoLee, their family and friends.

PROTECT SMALL BUSINESS FROM BIG GOVERNMENT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, small businesses are doing all they can to create jobs and bring our economy back to life. Unfortunately in Washington, Democrats have decided to scheme new taxes and mandates as a part of their Big Government takeover of the health care system. With 263,000 more jobs lost last month, it is shocking that Democrats believe now is the time to punish small business that creates the majority of jobs in America.

The National Federation of Independent Business has revealed the Big Government Democrat health takeover would cost 1.6 million jobs in the United States. Destroying jobs will make it harder, not easier, for individuals to afford health care.

We need H.R. 3400 to target reforms to our health insurance system, like shopping for plans across State lines, association health plans for small businesses, and tax credits for individuals to purchase insurance.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH CARE AND TRANSPARENCY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, it's now been over 5 months since the White House announced numerous deals with major stakeholders in the health care debate. Little or no details regarding these negotiations have been released. And last week during the Finance Committee hearings in the other body, a plan for a commission to slow the growth of Medicare spending was revealed. But it was then revealed that the hospitals would be exempt from this commission because, according to Congress Daily, they had already negotiated a cost-cutting agreement with the White House.

You know, despite the rhetoric of last fall, then-candidate Obama's promise to make all health care reform negotiation public, we still have very few details on what exactly was agreed to during these highly publicized but very secret meetings last May. How can Congress do its due diligence in creating policy before us without the crucial details? More importantly, how can the American public know what we are doing is indeed in their best interest?

In January of this year, we were promised an administration that would bring all parties together; we were promised an administration that would not negotiate behind closed doors and in fact would be broadcasting these negotiations on C-SPAN so that the American people could see for themselves what the choices were.

When will these cease to become promises and become reality?

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRESS NEEDS TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE FOR SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, yesterday I had the privilege to be in the heart of my district in Waterbury, Connecticut, to meet with a group of seniors, very concerned and active seniors. They call themselves the Silver Waves. And